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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 32
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the anniversary of the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine, by the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the statement issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-04326 (E) 260315

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Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the one-year anniversary of the illegal occupation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

17 March 2015

These days mark a year since the illegal occupation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol.

By committing this international crime, Russia violated basic principles of international law and European order, destroyed the existing balance of power in the region, and triggered a security crisis in Europe — the largest one since the Second World War.

In General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", the international community has given a clear answer to the attempts of Russian invaders to legitimize their illegal actions by staging an illegal, falsified "referendum" conducted under the muzzles of Russian arms, and underscored that "having no validity, [the referendum] cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol". The whole civilized world imposed sanctions on Russia for its blatant disregard of the fundamental principles of international law.

The entire world is rightfully indignant owing to the fact that, by occupying Crimea, Russian authorities have brought an atmosphere of fear, injustice and repression to the peninsula. Knowingly and with impunity, Russia continues violating human rights in the occupied territory, terrorizing those who disagree, especially Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, conducting detentions and searches, chasing and detaining civic activists and waging a whole war against independent media and journalists.

Ukrainians in Crimea have no access to education in the Ukrainian language and to Ukrainian media. During the occupation, more than 20,000 Ukrainians were forced to leave Crimea.

Russia is pursuing a targeted robbery of Ukraine. More than 400 Ukrainian enterprises have been unlawfully nationalized; the bowels of Ukraine are being illegally used; 18 gas fields have been seized. The adventurous and criminal policy of the occupational authorities leads Crimea to economic, social and environmental disaster. The Ukrainian tourist pearl has been turned into a military base where Russia, in violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, has threatened to deploy nuclear weapons, posing a real threat not only to regional but also to global security.

Despite the difficulties that Ukrainian citizens-residents of Crimea are now facing, we want to assure all our compatriots that Ukraine is doing and will do everything possible to restore its control over the peninsula.

Crimea was, is and will remain an integral part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

The Russian aggressor and occupier will be held accountable for all the crimes committed.

We call upon the international community to pay greater attention to occupied Crimea and consolidate international pressure on Russia in order to ensure its immediate return to the stream of international law, the abolition of all its illegal decisions that have led to the temporary occupation of the Ukrainian territory, and compensation for the damages caused by the Russian Federation to Ukraine and its citizens.

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Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the commentary by the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the wrong interpretation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of the statement by the Prime Minister of Ukraine (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the commentary issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 129, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-04421 (E) 260315

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Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Commentary by the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Yevhen Perebyinis

We were surprised to learn about the Russian Foreign Ministry's intention to seek a reaction from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the interview of the Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk. In this case, Russia should also seek the opinion of many other European countries to which after the Second World War the Soviet Union had exported a totalitarian regime and where it had brutally suppressed any attempts at democratic change, as what happened in Budapest, Prague, Warsaw and many other capitals of the so-called "socialist camp".

By its inadequate and propagandist interpretation of the Prime Minister's statements, Russia, as a self-proclaimed successor of the USSR and, unfortunately, also a successor of its imperialist traditions, proves only one fact: that for contemporary Russia, Soviet military and ideological occupation of Central and Eastern Europe, including East Germany, was just as normal as today's Russian occupation of Crimea and the Donbas.

It was precisely this and nothing else, what Arseniy Yatsenyuk meant in his conversation with the German media. And no one else except Russian journalists and diplomats attempted to find a different context in his words — a context that was not there and could never have been there.

Just in the same way that the Soviet Union had divided Europe into ideological camps after the Second World War, contemporary Russia tries to divide the continent into spheres of influence and to conserve dictator regimes by creating and supporting "frozen" conflicts. But just as 25 years ago, the Europeans choose freedom, today the Ukrainian people have clearly made their choice not to live in a Soviet-style world or in the "Russian world", but to become part of a civilized, democratic and law-abiding European family.

Unfortunately, it is exactly the Russian aggression in Ukraine that poses the main threat to these core European values. And that is why the main task of the whole civilized world today is to stop Russia's attempts to carve up Europe once again according to its aggressive interests, and to make Russia respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other States and return to a civilized format of international relations.

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 33
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 18 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 18 March 2015 regarding the signature of the so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" between Moscow and its occupation regime in Georgia's Tskhinvali region (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-04417 (E) 250315

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 18 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the signature of the so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" between Moscow and its occupation regime in Georgia's Tskhinvali region

After signing the so-called "treaty on alliance and strategic partnership" with its occupation regime in Sokhumi, the Russian Federation signed the so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" with its occupation regime in Tskhinvali on 18 March 2015. This action by the Russian Federation blatantly contradicts international law and undermines the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, such as the sovereign equality of States, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity and the fulfilment, in good faith, of obligations under international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the signing of the so-called "treaty", which is directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and, as in the case of Georgia's Abkhazia region — constitutes a factual annexation of the occupied Tskhinvali region of Georgia. The document provides for the full incorporation of Georgia's Tskhinvali region into the social, economic, administrative and even, more importantly, military and security institutions of Russia.

The so-called "treaty" is a flagrant violation by Russia of its commitments under the Ceasefire Agreement of 2008. The signing and subsequent implementation of the document will further aggravate the situation of the population residing in the Russian-occupied Georgian regions and will have grave security implications for Georgia and the wider region. This is of particular concern given the absence of international monitoring mechanisms inside the occupied territories and Russia's persistent refusal to commit to the non-use of force.

It should be stressed that such actions by the Russian Federation are a continuation of the process of aggression carried out against Georgia since the early 1990s and the occupation of Georgia's territories following the Russian invasion of Georgia and the Russian-Georgian war of August 2008. Russia's policy vis-à-vis Georgia, coupled with the alarming developments in the region, illustrates that Moscow does not accept the independent choice of sovereign States and strives for the restoration of zones of influence in the region, including through the use of force, occupation, annexation and other aggressive acts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls on the international community to give due legal and political weight to Russia's illegal acts and take effective measures to prevent the Russian policy, including by establishing international security arrangements on the ground. The strong and unanimous support of the international community will be vital for maintaining security and stability in the region.